Claims

The claimed invention is:

1. A method for facilitating capture and distribution of digital still pictures comprising the steps of:

(a) at a first node comprising a camera and a device capable of receiving user instructions, enabling a patron user to capture one or more of the images depicted by the camera as still pictures by providing the appropriate user instruction to the device capable of receiving user instructions,

(b) transferring one or more of the captured still pictures to a second node via a publicly accessible wide area network,

(c) transferring via the publicly accessible wide area network copies of one or more of the captured still pictures from the second node to a third node for display at the third node,

(d) receiving at the second node via the publicly accessible wide area network at least one instruction from the third node designating one or more versions of still pictures derived from the captured still pictures to be accessible by non-patron users, and

(e) at the second node, enabling transfer via the publicly accessible wide area network only copies of the one or more versions of the still pictures derived from the captured still pictures, but not the still pictures contained at the second node, to each node with permission to receive such versions of the still pictures other than a node validated by the second node as being operated by the patron user.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(f) transmitting an instruction from the third node to the second node via the wide area network indicating one or more email addresses of guest users to be permitted access to the one or more versions of the still pictures derived from the captured still pictures, and

(g) transmitting from the second node to one or more other nodes associated with the one or more email addresses a message pointing to the one or more versions of the still pictures for which access is permitted.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(f) generating one of the versions of the still pictures from one or more captured still pictures by receiving from the third node at the second node via the publicly accessible wide area network one or more edit commands, the third node being capable of transferring an edit command which alters the displayed appearance of the one version of the still picture relative to the one or more capture still pictures from which it was derived.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:

(g) transferring from the second node to the third node via the publicly accessible wide area network an executable software layout tool which can be used for generating the one version of the still pictures from the one or more captured still pictures.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the third node executes a browser application which enables communication of presentable information communicated between the third node and other nodes via the publicly accessible wide area network and wherein the executable software layout tool is transferred to the third node while executing the browser application and executes at the third node in conjunction with the browser application.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(f) transferring, from an e-commerce node to a node requesting the transfer of one or more still pictures from the second node via the publicly accessible wide area network, one or more advertisements for presentation thereat.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of:

(g) selecting a particular advertisement for transfer to each node targeted to a specific kind of user presumed to be operating the respective node to which the advertisement is to be transferred.

8. A system for facilitating capture and distribution of digital still pictures comprising the steps of:

a first node comprising a camera, and a device capable of receiving user instructions, for enabling a patron user to capture one or more images depicted by the

camera as still pictures by providing the appropriate user instruction to the device capable of receiving user instructions, and

a second node for receiving from the first node via a publicly accessible wide area network the pictures captured by the first node, for transferring via the publicly accessible wide area network copies of one or more of the capture still pictures to a third node for display at the third node, for receiving at the second node via the publicly accessible wide area network at least one instruction from the third node designating one or more versions of still pictures derived from the captured still pictures to be accessible by non-patron users, and for enabling transfer via the publicly accessible wide area network only copies of the one or more versions of the still pictures derived from the captured still pictures, but not other still pictures contained at the second node, to each node with permission to receive such versions of the still pictures other than a node validated by the second node as being operated by the patron user.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the second node is also for receiving from the third node an instruction transferred via the wide area network indicating one or more email addresses of guest users permitted to access the one or more versions of the still pictures derived from the captured still pictures, and for transmitting from the second node to one or more other nodes associated with the one or more email addresses a message pointing to the one or more versions of the still pictures for which access is permitted.

10. The system of claim 8 wherein one of the versions of the still pictures is generated from one or more captured still pictures by receiving at the second node via the publicly accessible wide area network one or more edit commands from the third node, the third node being capable of transferring an edit command which alters the displayed appearance of the one version of the still picture relative to the one or more capture still pictures from which it was derived.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the second node is also for transferring to the third node via the publicly accessible wide area network an executable software layout tool which can be used for generating the one version of the still pictures from the one or more captured still pictures.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the third node executes a browser application which enables communication of presentable information communicated between the third node and other nodes via the publicly accessible wide area network and wherein the executable software layout tool is transferred to the third node while executing the browser application and executes at the third node in conjunction with the browser application.

13. The system of claim 8 further comprising:

an e-commerce node for transferring to a node requesting the transfer of one or more still pictures from the second node via the publicly accessible wide area network, one or more advertisements for presentation thereat.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the e-commerce node is also for selecting a particular advertisement for transfer to each node targeted to a specific kind of user presumed to be operating the respective node to which the advertisement is to be transferred.